

'PIG WOMAN' READY TO SAY ON STAND SHE SAW WIDOW AT MURDER SCENE

Eye Witness Unshaken in Her Version

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., July 29.—Mrs. Jane Gibson, known as the "pig woman," today asserted she would take the stand before a grand jury and testify once more that she had seen Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and Henry de la Bruyere Carpenter at the scene of the murder of the Rev. Dr. Edward H. Hall, Mrs. Hall's husband, and his love, Mrs. Eleanor Mills.

On October 21, 1922, Mrs. Gibson took oath that she had seen Mrs. Hall and Carpenter at the spot where the bodies were found on September 14, 1922, the night of the murder.

"I am sorry for Mrs. Hall any other woman who may be mired up in the case," Mrs. Gibson declared, "but truth crushed to earth will rise again. I am ready now to take the stand and give the same testimony I did four years ago, when I was called 'liar' and 'fool' because of the seeming absurd story I told. It is true, all true, and I will stick by it."

A reporter for The GRAPHIC saw the "pig woman," so called because she raises pigs, on her lonely little farm in Somerset county at 6.30 a. m. today. She wore a loose gingham dress and frayed brown sandals. A sharp drizzle of rain wet her clear, tanned skin and occasional gusts of wind whipped her short brown hair into her face.

She surveyed her interviewer with sharp, penetrating blue eyes, and then glanced out over the green fields of tall corn which stretched for acres around her. A big shepherd dog and a collie thrust their muzzles into her warm hand and she patted their heads absently.

Ready to Talk

"Come out to the shed," she said. "I would like to take you in the house, but the dogs might bite you. There are lots of things I want to say about this Hall-Mills murder mystery."

Out in the shed, she paused for a moment to pass the time of day with a grizzled old farmer who sat stolidly on an overturned milk pail, placidly smoking his pipe. Although she must be more than 40, she seemed at that moment only a girl.

The manner in which she carried herself and the quick, assured way in which she spoke, directly contradicted the derisive name "pig woman" which her neighbors have pinned on her.

"At the trial I was called a low sort of person, but I certainly am not that," she said quietly. "I'll tell you the story of how I witnessed the last night of Rev. Hall and Mrs. Mills on earth."

Tracking Thieves

"Thieves had been stealing my corn and about 9.30 on the night of the murder I heard a shot and decided to trap them then and there. I saddled a mule and rode out in the fields."

"Under an old crabapple tree on the Phillips farm, just a mile from my house, I saw a man and a woman bending over something which I later found to be the inert bodies of the Rev. Hall and the pretty choir singer."

"An auto flashlight was turned on them and I swear they were Mrs. Hall and Carpenter."

The "pig woman" was asked about Mrs. Nellie Russell, the negro woman who had contradicted

Crowds Throng Hall-Mills Murder Site



WITH THE ARREST of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, charged with the murder of her husband and his choir singer, crowds today flocked to Phillips farm, near New Brunswick, N. J., where the body was found, re-enacting scenes which took place four years before. Inset at the upper right is Dr. Edward H. Hall. At the lower left is Mrs. Jane Gibson, called the "pig woman," who lives near the Phillips farm and says she saw the murder of Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills committed.

Pair Found Vent for Love In Passionate Letters

Passionate love letters, burning with endearment, were exchanged by the Rev. Dr. Edward H. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, the couple whom Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall today is charged with having murdered.

Excerpts from their correspondence follow:—

From Dr. Hall: "Dear heart of mine! I am a lonely, lonely boy tonight—fog all day today. I could not get to Seal Harbor and I know there are love letters there waiting for me."

From Mrs. Mills: "I love you most when you love me as you did today, not physically but prayerfully."

From Dr. Hall: "Good night, beloved. Every blessing for you, wonder-heart. Only help me to be strong and patient until we are in each others arms again."

From Mrs. Mills: "I am not fretting. I know there are girls with shapely bodies, but I don't care what they have . . . I have . . . a noble man's deep, true and eternal love. My heart is his; my life is his. Poor as my body is, scrawny as my skin may be, I am his forever."

From Dr. Hall: "Dearest, we were made for each other's arms. That is our heaven, our home, and every moment away from there is a moment away from home. Good night, dearly, dearly beloved; all the universe of love crushed into my love for you."

From Mrs. Mills: "And, honey, you put the dear pictures of me in my hymnal. Oh, you sweet, adorable babykins of mine!"

From Dr. Hall: "Heaven's blessings for the dearest, dearest sweetheart that ever lived."

From Mrs. Mills: "But this love nest, you know, dearie, is dreadfully lonesome with just me here. What a joy to read the

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Ex-Maid Says Widow Is Guiltless

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., July 29.—The arrest of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall for the murder of her husband, Rev. Edward W. Hall, and Mrs. Eleanor Mills today was ridiculed as useless by Mrs. Louise Geist Riehl, formerly Mrs. Hall's maid.

The reopening of the Hall-Mills inquiry after four years of silence came as a result of annulment proceedings filed by Arthur S. Riehl against his wife, claiming she was withholding information in the Hall-Mills case and that she knew who murdered the pastor and his choir singer.

Denies Hubby's Charges

Mrs. Riehl, or Miss Geist, as she prefers to be known, was feeding the chickens at her little home in Davidson Mills, N. J., ten miles from here, when she was seen by a reporter for The GRAPHIC at 5 a. m. today.

"My husband was peeved," she explained, picking up a little dog and fondling it in her arms. "That was why he started annulment proceedings. He has accused me time and again of having illicit rela-



MRS. LOUISE GEIST RIEHL

tions with the Rev. Hall, when such a thing was absolutely impossible, considering the character of the man.

"The charges Riehl makes are ridiculous. I know nothing of the murder. Why, Mrs. Hall was in the house at 9.30 o'clock on the night of the murder, when the 'pig woman,' Mrs. Gibson, said she saw her at Phillips farm, where the bodies were found. Mrs. Hall is innocent."

Important Witness

However, Miss Geist does figure in the case in a very important way, or, at least, Russell E. Watson, attorney for Mrs. Hall, thinks so.

Watson, who is also attorney for Johnson & Johnson, the wealthy surgical instrument and bandage manufacturers, who are related to Mrs. Hall, arrived at the Geist cottage shortly after the departure of The GRAPHIC reporter, who passed him on the road and saw him enter the house, where he conferred with Miss Geist and her aged mother for more than an hour.

It was 5 o'clock in the morning and Mrs. Hall had been arrested five hours before. Mr. Watson acted as if he was on important business.

Defends Pastor's Widow

Miss Geist protested volubly that Mrs. Hall was innocent and her

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her story to the jury four years ago.

Ungrateful for Aid

"Mrs. Russell said she was a great friend of mine," Mrs. Gibson asserted. "She said she was with me on the night of the murder and that I did not see what I know I saw. My eyes do not deceive me. Mrs. Russell lied to the grand jury. She turned on me after I had given her a cot and a blanket so she could sleep in her little shack without being wrapped up in burlap bags."

The "pig woman" smiled. "Mrs. Russell is a low type and I never associated with her, although I did help her a little."

"Her story was disproved by that of Mrs. Matthew Sulitz, a Hungarian and the wife of the caretaker at Phillips farm, who made an affidavit that she heard shots at 9.30 p. m. on September 14, 1922, at the same time I did."

DEFENDER OF WIDOW HAS LITTLE TO SAY

Timothy N. Pfeiffer, who has been attorney for Mrs. Hall during the time she was under fire lately, was found at his home, Sycamore Avenue and 247th Street, The Bronx, by a GRAPHIC representative early today.

Asked whether he knew Mrs. Hall had been arrested, he said he did.

"Have you any statement to make on her behalf?" he was asked.

"I have not been in communication with Mrs. Hall," he declared. "Are you going to New Jersey to see her now?"

"I cannot say."

"But you are still representing Mrs. Hall, aren't you?"

"I have nothing to say," he persisted. "I am sorry, but there is nothing I will say."

Eager that Fiend Should Meet His Fate

Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, who today is under arrest, charged with murdering her husband, Dr. Edward H. Hall, and his choir singer, Eleanor Mills, said she had been extremely active in investigating the case through private detectives.

On her return from a European tour after the murder inquiry was closed, she said:—

"I feel better now than I did when I left New Brunswick. But I shall never be really well until the fiend who killed my husband is brought to justice."

"Only by finding him and convicting him can I overcome the cruel suspicions cast on members of my family and of Mr. Mills's family. And I may add this: I am now closer to a solution than I was at the time of my departure for Europe."

DOVER, N. J., July 29.—The loss in the explosion of the naval arsenal at Lake Denmark is put at \$88,500,000, with the announcement that it will cost \$2,500,000 to replace the buildings.

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